



Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 711**

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**Chairperson:** John Synowiecki  
**Committee:** Nebraska Retirement Systems  
**Date of Hearing:** February 13, 2008

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 711:

- eliminates the deadlines imposed on school employees and clerk magistrates to apply for disability retirement benefits, and
- specifies in statute when the disability benefits begin, if the application is approved by the Public Employees Retirement Board (PERB).

Under the bill the school employees or the clerk magistrates may apply for disability retirement benefits at any time prior to the date of normal retirement eligibility. The disability benefits begin on the date of certification of the disability by PERB.

The bill strikes:

- the requirement that school employees must apply for disability benefits within five years from termination of employment with a public school located in Nebraska when the disability is related to that employment or within one year from termination of employment with a public school in Nebraska when the disability is not related to that employment, and
- the requirement that clerk magistrates must apply for disability benefits within one year of termination of employment.

The bill retains the requirement that school employees and clerk magistrates must apply for disability retirement benefits and that PERB must approve the application before benefits can begin.

The bill gives the owners of the retirement accounts the ability to decide when it is best or necessary to apply for disability benefits in lieu of waiting for retirement eligibility.

**Principal Introducer:**

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**Senator Rich Pahls**